

Boletín Informativo de Justicia Ambiental

Consejo Consultivo Nacional de Justicia Ambiental (NEJAC)

*Todas las comunidades y personas através de ésta Nación
deberán vivir en un ambiente seguro y saludable.*

Con estas palabras, el Presidente Clinton firmó el 11 de febrero de 1994 la Orden Ejecutiva 12898 para establecer justicia ambiental como una prioridad nacional. Esto es el primer esfuerzo Presidencial para dirigir a todas las agencias federal hacia una misión de salud pública o ambiental y lograr incorporar en sus políticas públicas y actividades justicia ambiental. La Orden, titulada "Acciones Federal para Señalar Justicia Ambiental en las Poblaciones de Minoría y las Poblaciones de Ingresos-Bajos," enfoca la atención federal en las condiciones del ambiente y la salud humana de las poblaciones de minoría y de ingresos-bajos con la meta de lograr protección para todas las comunidades.

En el 1993, la Administradora Browner hizo justicia ambiental una prioridad de la EPA. Ella señaló que "muchas personas de color, ingreso-bajo y las comunidades de Americanos Nativos han levantado preocupaciones de que ellos sufren la consecuencia de lo altamente desproporcionado y adverso en la salud humana, debido a la localización de las plantas industriales y las facilidades de tratamiento de desperdicios sólidos peligrosos, y estar expuestos a pesticidas o otros químicos tóxicos en sus hogares y en el trabajo y también los programas ambientales no señalan adecuadamente ésta desproporción de exposición...la EPA está comprometida a señalar estas preocupaciones y asumir un rol de liderato en justicia ambiental para ampliar la calidad ambiental para todos los residentes de los Estados Unidos. Incorporar cada día la justicia ambiental en las actividades y decisiones de la Agencia va ser una gran empresa. Una reforma fundamental va ser necesaria en las operaciones de la Agencia."

ESTABLECIENDO UNA INFRAESTRUCTURA

Respondiendo a las preocupaciones públicas, la EPA creó en el 1992 la Oficina de Justicia Ambiental e implementó una nueva infraestructura organizacional para integral justicia ambiental dentro de las políticas públicas, programas, y actividades. Se formaron tres grupos nuevos interagenciales: **Comité Ejecutivo Directivo** está compuesto de gerentes de alta jerarquía que

representan a la oficina principal y los representantes de cada región. Esto provee liderato y dirección en la planificación de la estrategia que asegura la incorporación de justicia ambiental en las operaciones de la agencia; el **Grupo de Trabajo de Política Pública** está compuesto por el personal de alta jerarquía y las regiones para asegurar que las políticas and regions to ensure that cross-media policy development and coordination occurs at all levels

The third and most active group is the **Environmental Justice Coordinators Council** which serves as the frontline staff specifically responsible to ensure policy input, program development, and implementation of environmental justice throughout the Agency. This new structure has established a clear commitment from EPA's senior management to all personnel that environmental justice is a priority.

OBTAINING STAKEHOLDER ADVICE - NEJAC

The functions of this Council cannot be performed within the Agency. This council is the first time that community, industry and state/local government groups have been brought together where a dialogue can begin to "reinvent" solutions to environmental justice problems. It is essential that such a dialogue occur. In addition, the NEJAC provides a valuable forum for integrating environmental justice with other EPA priorities and initiatives.

To ensure that the Agency would receive significant input from affected stakeholders, the **NEJAC** was established as a Federal Advisory Committee and chartered for two years effective 9/3/93. During its first two years, the NEJAC Council consisted of 23 members appointed from key environmental justice constituencies, which include community-based groups; business and industry; academic and educational institutions; state and local governments; tribal governments; non-governmental organizations; and environmental groups. The NEJAC Council also had four subcommittees to help develop strategic options for EPA. Each subcommittee was comprised of approximately 12 individuals knowledgeable in the subject area, from the NEJAC Council as well as from other stakeholder organizations. These were: **Waste and Facility Siting; Enforcement; Health and Research; and Public Participation and Accountability**. Contact the federal

employee responsible for overseeing each one named below.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During the 1993-95 period, the NEJAC produced a number of products and provided consensus advice to help the Agency focus its environmental justice agenda. For example, the initial draft of EPA's Environmental Justice Strategy required by Executive Order 12898 was reviewed and substantive recommendations made; the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response's Facility Siting Criteria document was reviewed; a public forum protocol was developed and subsequently used as the model for the first Interagency Public Meeting on Environmental Justice (Atlanta, 1/19/95); health and research projects to identify high risk communities were developed; a review of the Agency's enforcement work plan was conducted; and public dialogues were conducted in five major cities concerning possible solutions to urban crises resulting from loss of economic opportunities caused by pollution and relocation of businesses.

MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

When funds permit, meetings are held at different locations to ensure that local concerns can be expressed in the open forum provided by the NEJAC. The first meeting was held May 20, 1994 in Washington, D.C., followed by meetings in Albuquerque, NM, August 3-5, 1994; Herndon, VA, October 25-27, 1994; Atlanta, GA, January 17-19, 1995; Washington, DC, July 25-27, 1995.

NEXT MEETING: Dec. 5-7, 1995
Washington, D.C.
Location Will Be Announced - Call This Hotline or Monitor The Federal Register

PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Executive Order provided for agencies to hold public meetings to receive comments, questions, and recommendations regarding environmental justice issues.

On January 20, 1995, an Interagency Public Meeting on Environmental Justice was conducted at Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia, in conjunction with the NEJAC meeting. Ten agencies and over 350 people attended the day-long event. In addition, an estimated 1,000 people watched the evening session, which was televised via satellite to approximately 40 locations across the nation including Puerto Rico. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for the public to share concerns and recommend changes in the federal agencies' environmental justice strategies. Extensive comments were provided by stakeholders throughout the day. All comments and responses were recorded in a transcript that is available to the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Each NEJAC meeting has at least 2 hours for members of the public to register and make statements before the full NEJAC. The comments are recorded and maintained as a part of the public record of each meeting. Each meeting record is available to the public in Room 2636 Waterside Mall, 401 M Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20460. In some cases hard copies are available. Call the Information Line.

RENEWING MEMBERSHIP

The Federal Advisory Committee Act requires that a committee be rechartered every two years and that membership be rotated to provide the widest participation possible by the greatest number of stakeholders. Therefore, NEJAC has been rechartered for two additional years, two new subcommittees--International and Indigenous People--established, and memberships rotated.

MEMBERSHIP OF NEJAC

Academia

Dr. Robert Bullard
Dr. Mary English
Dr. Richard Lazarus
Dr. Beverly Wright

Industry

Mr. John Borum
Mr. Charles McDermott
Mr. Lawrence Hurst
Mr. Michael Pierle

Community Groups

Ms. Dolores Herrera
Ms. Hazel Johnson
Dr. Jean Sindab

Non-Government

Mr. Charles Lee
Mr. John O'Leary
Mr. Baldemar Velasquez
Mr. Haywood Turrentine

State/Local

Mr. Salomon Rondon-Tollens
Ms. Velma Veloria
Mr. Arthur Ray

Tribal

Ms. Gail Small
Ms. Jean Gamache, Esq.
Mr. Walter Bresee

Environmental Organizations

Mr. Richard Moore
Ms. Peggy Saika
Ms. Nathalie Walker
Ms. Deeohn Ferris

Clark Atlanta
University of Tennessee
Washington University
Xavier University

AT&T
Waste Management, Inc.
Motorola, Inc.
Monsanto

San Jose Community Awareness Cncl.
People for Community Recovery
National Council of Churches

U.C. of Christ Comm. for Racial Justice
Pierce, Atwood & Scribner
Farm Labor Organizing Committee
Laborers-AGC Ed./Trng. Fund

Natl. Resources & Envtl. Qual. Comm.
Washington State Legislature
Maryland Department of Environment

Native Action
Tlignit/Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Lake Superior Chippewa

SW Network for Env.& Econ. Justice
Asian Pacific Environment Network
Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund
Washington Office for Envnl.Justice

For Specific Information, Call The Federal Official Named Below

SUBCOMMITTEE

NEJAC
Enforcement
Health & Research
Public Participation
Waste/Facility Siting
International
Indigenous People

FEDERAL OFFICIAL

Dr. Clarice Gaylord - 202-260-6357
Ms. Sherry Milan - 202-260-9807
Mr. Lawrence Martin - 202-260-0673
Mr. Robert Knox - 202-260-8195
Ms. Jan Young - 202-260-1691
Pending
Ms. Elizabeth Bell - 202-260-8106

For General Information Call 1-800-962-6215
Marva E. King or Linda K. Smith